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Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

Letter dated 20 January 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the response of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation to the decision of the United States of America to extend the term of the Libya Sanctions Act for a further year beginning on 7 January 2003.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Ahmed A. **Own**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

03-22249 (E) 270103 280103

Response of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation to the decision of the United States of America to extend the term of the Libya Sanctions Act

On 2 January 2003, the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush, addressed a letter to the speakers of the United States House of Representatives and Senate informing them of his decision to extend the comprehensive sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for a further year beginning on 7 January 2003. That means the continuation of the freezing of Libyan assets in United States banks, the barring of Libyan students from pursuing advanced studies in the United States and a ban on the export to the Jamahiriya of United States technical equipment.

The great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya expresses its extreme displeasure and its amazement at this measure and finds it in contradiction with events, particularly the positive attitudes adopted by the Jamahiriya with regard to the improvement of relations between the two countries.

The United States administration's extension of the so-called "Libya Sanctions Act" represents a flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law governing relations among States and the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and by international and regional organizations, in particular, General Assembly resolution 57/5 of 16 October 2002.

By this decision, the United States administration has sought to delude world public opinion by linking Security Council resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) to the unilateral coercive measures imposed by the United States of America on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya since 1986, although no such connection exists, because the United States measure preceded the Security Council resolutions and the reference to these resolutions has no other explanation save that it represents an attempt to confer legitimacy on the unilateral United States measures and confirmation of the premeditated intent to justify its continuation.

In his letter, the United States President said that one of the reasons for extension of the term of the coercive United States measures was the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's failure so far to comply with its obligations under Security Council resolutions. This argument not only ignores the positions expressed by many international and regional organizations, namely that the Jamahiriya has complied with all these resolutions, but it is also contrary to the conclusions arrived at by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his report to the Security Council under paragraph 6 of resolution 883 (1993), in which he stated clearly that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had complied with all the requirements of the Security Council resolutions relating to the dispute concerning the Lockerbie incident.

The great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya hopes that the United States of America will take into account the positive developments in relations between the two countries arising from the Jamahiriya's flexible position aimed at

the settlement of the problems between them and trusts that the United States Government will respond to the repeated appeals from international and regional organizations to rescind these unilateral coercive measures, which are not conducive to the establishment of balanced friendly relations governed by mutual respect and regard for the common interests of both parties.

Tripoli, 11 January 2003